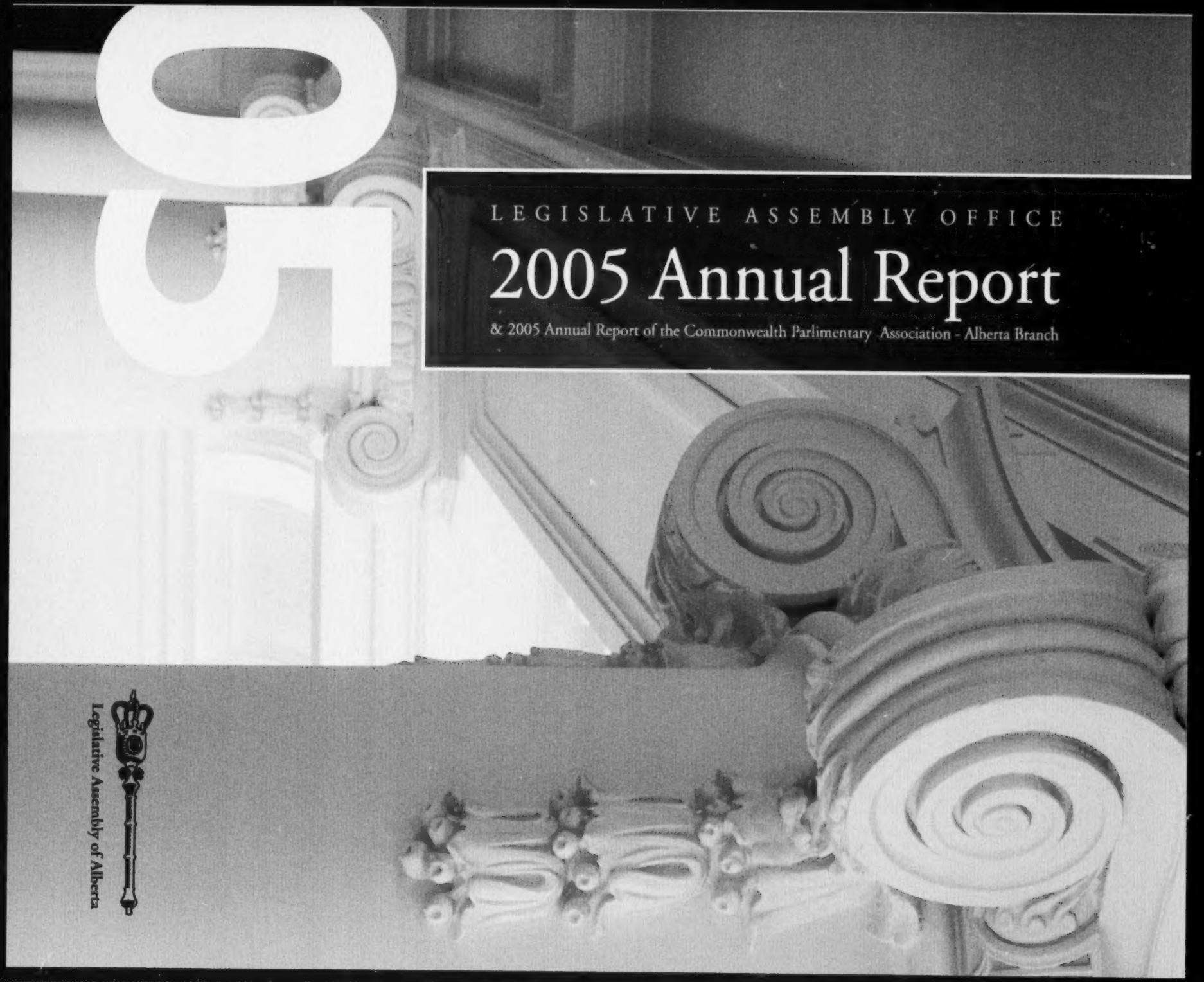

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OFFICE

2005 Annual Report

& 2005 Annual Report of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association - Alberta Branch

Legislative Assembly of Alberta

Legislative Assembly Office **Annual Report**

Photo above: The 2005 Alberta Centennial Celebration, RCMP

Legislative Assembly of Alberta

August 24, 2006

To the Members of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta:

As required by Standing Orders, I am pleased to submit the 19th annual report of the Legislative Assembly Office. This report describes the activities of the Legislative Assembly Office focusing on four key areas of responsibility in which support was provided to Members during the calendar year ended December 31, 2005. Also presented are the audited financial statements for the 2004–2005 fiscal year and the ninth annual report of the Alberta Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

The year of 2005 – Alberta's centennial – was filled with exciting events, and I was proud to be part of the festivities. I was especially pleased to welcome Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II as she addressed the Legislative Assembly, the first time a reigning monarch has done so in Alberta's History.

I would also like to recognize the outstanding support that Legislative Assembly Office staff provided to various centennial initiatives. As Speaker I am proud to lead this group of dedicated professionals.

I would like to thank those Members who so ably represented Alberta or presented papers at various interparliamentary conferences, and I thank all MLAs for supporting the work of the Legislative Assembly Office and the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

Respectfully submitted,

Hon. Ken Kowalski, MLA

Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

Legislative Assembly of Alberta

August 24, 2006

To the Honourable Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta:

I am honoured to present to you the 19th annual report of the Legislative Assembly Office and the ninth annual report of the Alberta Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. The Legislative Assembly Office report includes the audited financial statements regarding the operation of the Legislative Assembly Office for the 2004–2005 fiscal year. The Alberta Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association report outlines the various developmental opportunities afforded Members who attended interparliamentary conferences.

This Legislative Assembly Office report focuses on results-based reporting and includes highlights of the past year's centennial festivities in addition to annual conferences and events undertaken to further educate the public about the institution of parliament.

I am privileged to work with Legislative Assembly Office staff, who bring a high level of commitment, flexibility and professionalism to the work they do.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. W.J. David McNeil

Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

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05

AN INTRODUCTION

The Legislative Assembly Office: In Service to Alberta's Parliament

The origins of Alberta's Legislative Assembly Office (LAO) can be traced to 14th century England, when Parliament elected the first Speaker and appointed the first Clerk. Today the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly is the head of the LAO, and the Clerk is the Speaker's deputy. The *Legislative Assembly Act* of 1983 made the LAO's current name official.

The most common misconception about the LAO is that it is a branch of government and that its staff are government employees. However, in the parliamentary system the government is the executive branch, responsible for applying and enforcing laws; the Legislative Assembly is the legislative branch, responsible for establishing those laws. The Legislative Assembly Office provides various types of support to the entire Assembly – both members of government and opposition caucuses.

Although the LAO is sometimes called the Speaker's department, it is not a government department. The Speaker does not belong to the cabinet and cannot be asked questions during Oral Question Period or participate in the Assembly's debates. However, the Speaker does have administrative authority and responsibility similar to that of a minister of a government department. The Clerk is the Speaker's chief administrative deputy and has authority and responsibility similar to that of a deputy minister.

The Speaker has two distinct but related roles. In the Assembly the Speaker maintains order and ensures that Members of the Legislative Assembly (Members) conduct their business according to the Standing Orders of the Assembly.

Administratively, the Speaker is responsible for the Assembly's records and provides services to Members and the public. The latter include financial administration, human resources, office automation assistance, public education, library services, legal services, House services, purchasing and communications services.

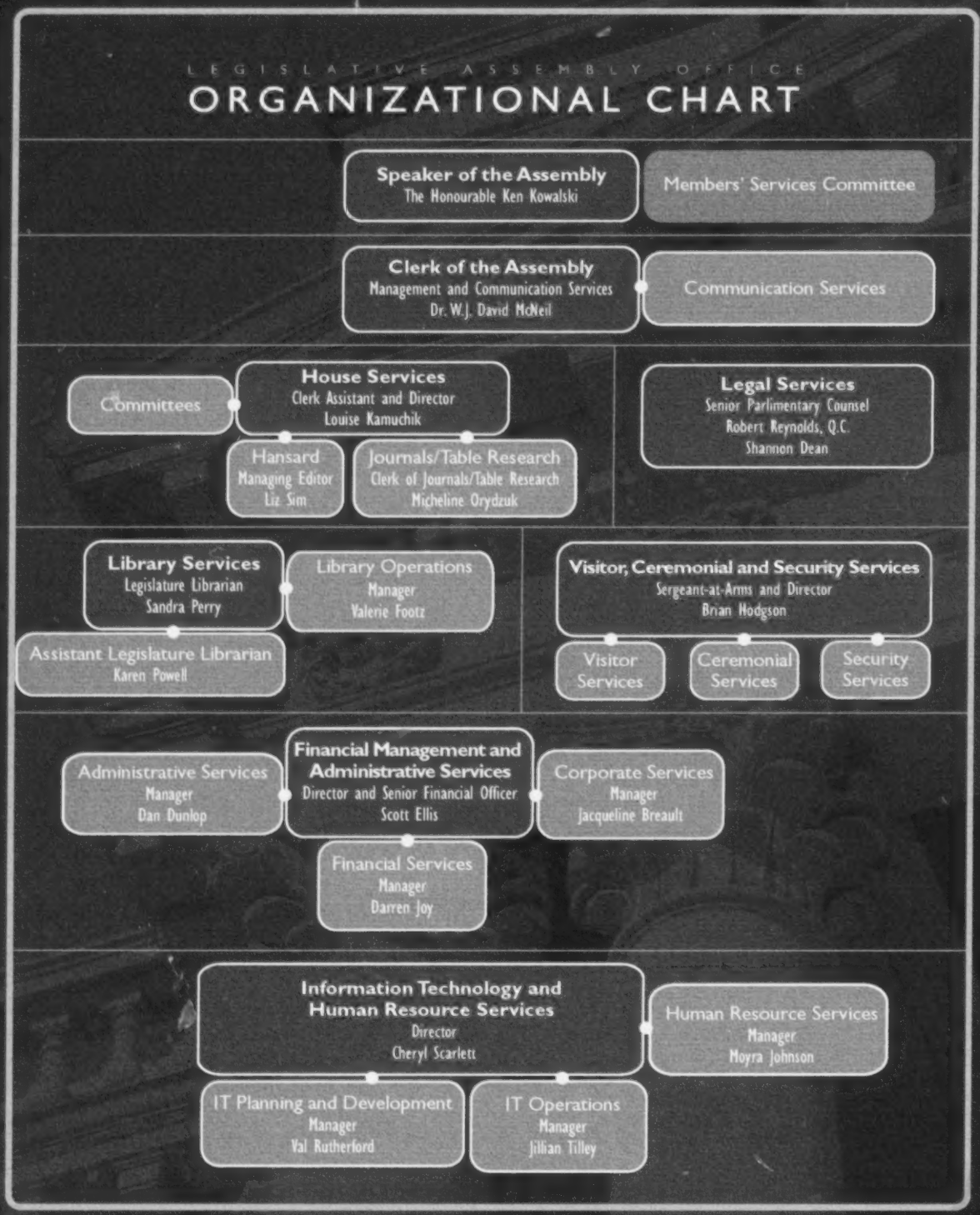
The LAO as a whole has the same procedural and administrative roles. This is a unique characteristic and is evident throughout the office, particularly during session, when the normal duties, work hours and office locations of many staff change significantly.

The LAO's annual budget, as well as provisions for financial and human resource administration, are under the purview of the Special Standing Committee on Members' Services. As an all-party committee of the Assembly, the Members' Services Committee regulates constituency office support and Members' pay, allowances, benefits and group insurance plans, all of which the LAO administers. Traditionally, the Speaker chairs the Members' Services Committee.

Each party of elected members, or caucus, is a branch of the LAO. Although the Speaker technically has authority over the administration of each caucus office, for obvious reasons these branches operate with considerable autonomy. Therefore, the caucus branches are not part of this report; it only includes branches of the LAO under the Speaker's full control. However, since the caucuses receive financial, administrative and human resource services, as well as other support from other branches of the LAO, this report does comment on those services. In addition, the office's consolidated budget estimates and audited financial statements, which appear at the end of this report, include caucus finances.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OFFICE

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



SERVICES

Office of the Clerk

Responsible for processing the daily business of the House and providing management and communications support to all branches of the LAO. The Clerk's Office is also responsible for the operation of the Legislature information line. The Clerk acts as a liaison at the deputy minister level with government departments and assists in coordinating Member participation in interparliamentary activities.

Financial Management and Administrative Services (FMAS)

Provides full accounting services such as budget preparation and monitoring, payment processing and financial reporting as well as administrative services including equipment and supplies procurement, telecommunications management, constituency office lease and credit card administration. FMAS also handles the responsibilities under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and Records Management Guidelines for the LAO.

Human Resource Services (HRS)

Advises on employment and policy issues for the Speaker, Members, caucuses, constituencies and the LAO as well as manages the Legislative Assembly human resource and payroll system, including coordinating MLA and staff compensation plans and administering employee and service contracts. In addition, HRS oversees the recruitment and retention policies for non-partisan positions, ensures safe work practices and promotes health and wellness initiatives.

Information Technology Services (ITS)

Handles all technological issues, including installation and support of software and hardware, remote access and network infrastructure.

Legal Services – Parliamentary Counsel

Provides legal advice on a wide range of matters including parliamentary procedure. They draft private Members' public bills and private bills. Both Senior Parliamentary Counsel serve as Table Officers in the House and advise the Speaker on points of order and questions of privilege.

Library Services

Offers information, news, reference and research services to the Members and their staff using current library and information technology. As well, Library Services provides training in the use of services that are delivered electronically to the Members' desktops.

House Services

Along with providing advice on parliamentary procedure, producing the Votes and Proceedings, Order Paper, *Journals* and assisting in maintaining House records, such as bills and motions, House Services provides all arrangements for the Assembly's standing, special standing and select special committee meetings. and assists with expenses, budgets, historical records and transcripts relating to committees. In addition, the recording and publishing of print and electronic versions of *Alberta Hansard*, the official report of the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly and its committees, falls under the responsibility of House Services. This includes the administration of a subscription service to *Alberta Hansard*, Votes and Proceedings and bills and distribution of sessional publications. The *Hansard* staff in the House Services Branch also provide proofreading and editing services to other branches.

Visitor, Ceremonial and Security Services (VCSS)

Plans and executes ceremonial and special events, as well as the coordination of school and public outreach programs, tours of the facilities and delivery of several educational and orientation materials. Maintaining security in the Chamber and precincts, providing security-related advice to constituency offices and managing the Alberta Legislative Assembly Page program are also responsibilities of VCSS.

OUR MISSION.

To provide non-partisan parliamentary support to the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly as they carry out their roles as elected representatives.

OUR VISION.

Respect - Tradition
Exemplify - Service
Promote - Innovation

2005 STRATEGIC GOALS

Photo above: the 26th Legislature of Alberta in session.

- Assist the Speaker in fulfilling the duties of office
- Assist Members in carrying out their roles as legislators within the parliamentary system and as representatives of their constituencies
- Meet and exceed the service expectations of the Members
- Respond to increased demands for technology-related services from Members, staff and the public
- Provide Members with professional development opportunities and foster interparliamentary cooperation through participation in national and international parliamentary forums and exchange programs
- Increase public awareness of the Legislative Assembly within Alberta's democratic parliamentary system through information and outreach programs
- Continue to foster understanding of the division of powers among the legislative, executive and judicial branches of government
- Ensure that the Legislative Assembly Office (LAO) provides quality services in an increasingly competitive environment
- Ensure the continued development of the effectiveness and efficiency of the LAO workforce through the fostering and recognition of leadership and teamwork
- Develop plans for special centennial events and projects

OUR VALUES.

Employees of the Legislative Assembly Office (LAO) are proud to provide services to the Legislative Assembly on behalf of the citizens of Alberta. We are guided in our work and conduct by a core set of principles that motivate us as individuals and reflect the qualities of the office as a whole.

IMPARTIALITY • INTEGRITY • IMPROVEMENT

Photo above: a tour guide and students participating in the School-at-the-Legislature program.

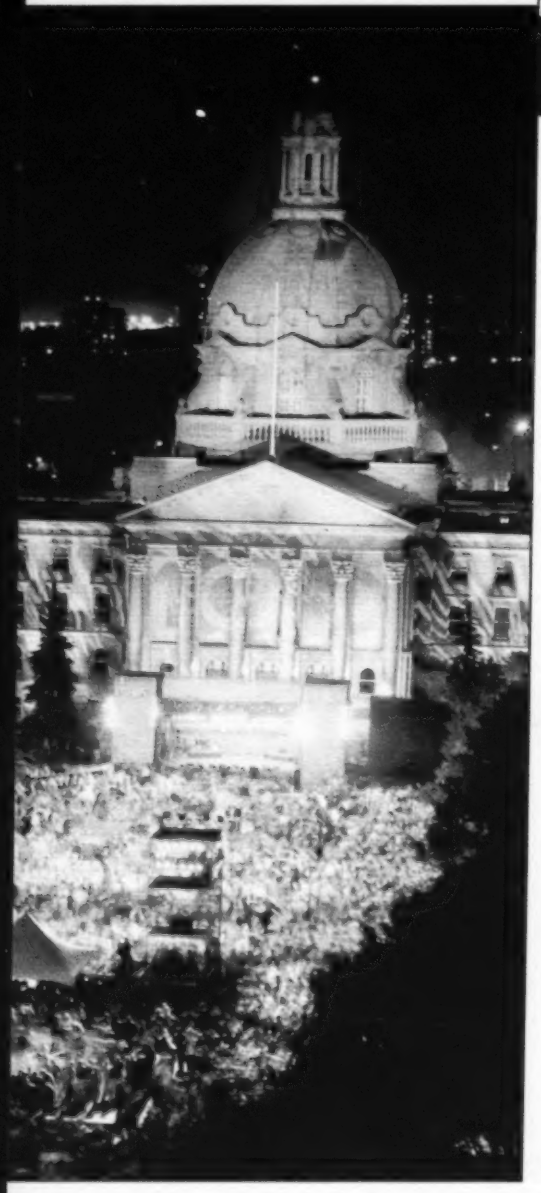


Photo above: thousands gathered at the Legislature during Alberta's centennial celebrations on September 1.

KEY RESPONSIBILITY AREAS

KEY RESPONSIBILITY AREA 1

Provision of Timely, Professional, Impartial, Accurate Information and Advice to Members

Information

The beginning months of 2005 saw a continuation of new Member and staff orientation. As well, several documents and online tools were updated to reflect the changes that came about following the November 2004 election. Some examples are: The Expenditure Guidelines for Members of the Legislative Assembly, the Members' Procedural Orientation Manual and the Committees Practical Guide.

Human Resource Services (HRS) provided one-on-one orientations for 58 new salaried and 117 wage employees, consulted with 35 terminating salaried employees and processed 87 wage terminations. Support for 72 summer staff included assessment and referrals, pay, documentation and orientation.

HRS, Information Technology Services (ITS) and Financial Management and Administrative Services (FMAS) held a special Constituency Staff Orientation session for 32 new staff members on January 19, 2005, to welcome new staff and provide information on the operations of the Legislative Assembly Office (LAO) and the setup and maintenance of a constituency office.

House Services maintained House records and statistics and prepared and edited the 2005 *Journals*, Order Paper and Votes and Proceedings for the first Session of the 26th Legislature.

A procedural orientation was held for new Members on February 26, 2005, by House Services and Parliamentary Counsel. FMAS provided information and advice regarding changes to Members' Services Committee Orders affecting Members' allowances and entitlements (Members' Services Allowances, temporary residence allowance, MLA parking and vehicle rentals.) FMAS also assisted Members in determining the applicability of planned purchases from special Alberta Centennial funding.

Library Services' *Profiles* service provides e-mail updates of newspaper and periodical articles to Members and LAO staff following particular issues. In 2005 10 different topics of interest were monitored. As well, Library Services increased the number of full-text databases available at the Members' desktops to 35. New databases include *Associations Unlimited* and *Health Source: Nursing/Academic Edition.*

A series of bibliographies on topics such as disaster response and transportation of dangerous goods; electoral reform, electoral systems and representation; energy markets; skilled labour shortages; and Canada/U.S.A. trade relations were prepared prior to the spring and fall sessions. Library Services also continued

microfilming weekly newspapers from around the province.

The Alberta Electronic Government Documents Archive, developed and maintained by Library Services, was expanded to include 2,074 documents, increasing the size of this collection by 39 per cent, while the overall collection grew by approximately 3 per cent.

Advice

Parliamentary Counsel provided legal and procedural advice to the Speaker, Members and Committees of the Assembly as well as assisted the Speaker in preserving and asserting the rights and privileges of the Assembly and provided support and advice to the Speaker and other presiding officers on questions of parliamentary law and privilege.

House Services provided procedural advice and guidance to the Speaker and the Assembly as well as provided procedural, research and organizational support to the Chairs of the Assembly's Standing and Special Standing Committees and two Select Special Committees. As well, an 11-Member all-party Select Special Conflicts of Interest Act Review Committee and a nine-Member all-party Select Special Chief Electoral Officer Search Committee were struck in 2005 and required support. The committees were also assisted by Parliamentary Counsel, Communications Services, individuals from the Justice and Attorney General ministry, the office of the Ethics Commissioner, and from Executive Search, Personnel Administration Office.

In addition, budget requirements for all committees were prepared for presentation to the Special Standing Committee on Members' Services, and committee expenditures were reconciled on a monthly/yearly basis by House Services.

The Sergeant-at-Arms/Director of Visitor, Ceremonial and Security Services (VCSS) or Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms visited 48 constituency offices to provide advice on office and personal safety, as well as fielding requests for advice on a variety of security matters.

KEY RESPONSIBILITY AREA 2

Provision of Services, Equipment, Supplies and Facilities on a Timely Basis

General Services

Parliamentary Counsel provided drafting services in the preparation of 13 private Members' public bills and four private bills introduced in the House, preparation of amendments to the Standing Orders of the Assembly and Members' Services Committee Orders, review of a wide array of contracts/agreements – licensing, leases, employment and fee for service contracts and other service arrangements. Parliamentary Counsel also prepared the Annual List of Required Tablings and circulated it to all Members, Officers of the Legislature and Senior Officials throughout Government prior to session.

A corporate human resource plan was introduced to ensure the LAO has the manpower to deliver services to the Legislative Assembly in an increasingly competitive market. The plan will further develop over the next year as key objectives and strategies are finalized.

While the tight labour market in Alberta provided some challenges, HRS recruited 27 employees for 17 competitions, which involved screening over 450 résumés and conducting 141 interviews. Efficiencies were gained utilizing a new recruitment database developed by HRS to track applications and competition statistics. HRS also coordinated leaves of absence for 11 employees, including seven maternity and five personal leaves, as well as the transfer of six employees to other public service agencies.

Enhancements to the Legislative Assembly Payroll System (LAPS) continued through partnerships with HRS and ITS in order to ensure an efficient process for the volume of staff changes post-election, and the Choice Times that occurred in July for 1st Choice and Members' Choice benefit plans, as well as retroactive pay adjustments and benefit rate increases. HRS also developed a new Constituency Compensation System to provide equitable compensation (salary and benefits) for constituency staff while still allowing Members the flexibility to address the unique needs of their particular constituency. The plan was approved by the Members' Services Committee for implementation in April 2006. HRS also administered 333 contracts in 2005.

The *Hansard* unit of House Services continued to meet all publication and delivery targets in 2005 despite reporting over 291 hours of meetings of the Assembly and its committees and transcribing in excess of two and a half million words.

House Services continued to provide speech reprints, wherein a Member's remarks are excerpted from the record

Continued next page

and printed in several formats, including on frameable parchment paper for presentation to constituents. In 2005 *Hansard* staff also began providing audio as well as electronic reprints of Members' remarks. Additionally, *Hansard* staff continued to provide proofreading services to other branches of the LAO.

Work by Library Services continued on the digitization of Alberta's *Scrapbook Hansard* with the focus on the 3rd to the 5th Legislatures. As of December 2005, this digital collection held over 4,000 newspaper articles (comprising 6,499 pages) spanning 18 years of Alberta's legislative history.

2005 proved to be another eventful year, with 361 projects completed by Communication Services. Communication Services supports the LAO's internal and external audiences in all aspects of communications in addition to the operation of the Legislature Information Line, production of congratulatory scrolls and the Legislative Assembly Office bimonthly newsletter, *Preview* as well as the publication of House documents such as the Seating Plan, Members' Guide and in conjunction with Parliamentary Counsel the Standing Orders and Consolidated Members' Services Committee Orders.

Online Services

Human Resource Services (HRS) expanded the Orientation Program to include a new section on *Our House* as a self-service resource for employees.

PeopleFind is an internal online directory providing contact information for LAO staff. In 2005 this application was redesigned and upgraded to include all caucus and constituency office staff. FMAS continued work with ITS on the development of online expense and allowance claim forms to be integrated with the LAO's financial system. As well, FMAS successfully implemented electronic, web-based ordering of overprinted materials for Members, caucus, branch and constituency office staff.

The process to catalogue and index *Hansard*, committee transcripts and other House documents was made more efficient through a new web application called LADDAR (Legislative Assembly Digital Documents and Records). As well, the facility to search and access these documents on the LAO website was redesigned for consistency.

Communications Services and ITS began planning for the redevelopment of the LAO's websites by, first, developing basic design concepts and, second, striking an LAO-wide committee to help discern each branch's online needs. The *Our House* update should be complete by the end of 2006.

Library Services continued to develop and update the Library section of the LAO Intranet to provide easy access to internal and external information services. The most popular, frequently accessed of the Library's web services in 2005 were *Alberta Daily News* (*ADN*), *Trivia* and *Quick Reference*. The Legislature Library is also one of many Alberta libraries whose catalogues can be searched online through one seamless database, facilitating interlibrary loan for all Albertans. This service continued to be well used.

Equipment and Supplies

The Constituency Office Furniture Upgrade Project is complete, and FMAS has implemented the first phase of the Members' Legislature Office Furniture Upgrade.

FMAS also completed an enhanced purchase order form for the Legislative Assembly Gift Shop and worked with ITS and VCSS to integrate the form with the Retail Pro point-of-sale system. In addition, a new MLA travel card was implemented, and FMAS conducted a review of the budget preparation process and document with LAO branches, which resulted in an updated document that includes more detailed information to assist in submission preparation.

ITS implemented a BlackBerry Enterprise Service to further enhance PDA capabilities, including real-time calendaring, advanced security and central management. PDA usage, including BlackBerry usage has increased dramatically over the past few years and MLAs especially have taken advantage of the "real-time" connectivity and the convenience ITS provides.

A major initiative of 2004 was to provide constituency offices with additional technology. This was completed in 2005. Fifty-six offices received upgrades to equipment and assistance on a variety of technology needs over the summer. As well, ITS worked with Members and staff to implement essential information technology services for satellite constituency offices and continued the upgrade and maintenance of hardware, software and infrastructure. Hardware upgrades included desktops, laptops, servers, switches and cable runs. Software upgrades included firewall, finance/payroll systems and database servers.

Continued next page

Facilities

The Sergeant-at-Arms/Director of VCSS continued to chair the Legislature Business Resumption Planning Committee and serve on the Security Coordination Committee along with security stakeholders from the LAO, the Alberta Solicitor General and Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation.

Similarly, HRS worked with building partners to update emergency preparedness plans, including new evacuation information brochures and floor warden training on work sites within the LAO.

VCSS continued to coordinate the maintenance of constituency office alarm systems and provide security for Members and spectators in the galleries during session.

As well, site preparations for LAO and government department events held in the Interpretive Centre, Legislature Pedway and Grounds were assisted by VCSS, and in partnership with Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation, VCSS coordinated the selection, delivery and installation of new chairs for the Chamber.

FMAS conducted furniture assessments and upgrades as required for Members' Legislature office staff.

ITS and *Hansard* staff assisted in the design and implementation of a new sound system for the Chamber in the Legislature Building. In addition to the sound system upgrade, network connectivity for MLAs in the Chamber was improved, and some components of the furniture in the Chamber were altered to incorporate the new audio and network functionality.

KEY RESPONSIBILITY AREA 3

Provision of An Effective Workplace to Support Members

Informational Support

Parliamentary Counsel responded to questions from Members, caucus and constituency office staff on a variety of legal and procedural issues as well as provided briefings to constituency office and caucus staff on procedural matters and legal issues so that they could better assist Members, and monitored legal actions affecting the Legislative Assembly and defended the interests of the Assembly when required. Parliamentary Counsel also provided legal services to the Chief Electoral Officer.

The ITS Tip of the Week was resurrected in early 2005 and quickly became an avenue for keeping LAO clients informed of LAO-specific news or technology-related issues.

HRS evaluated current labour market trends in support of the Corporate Human Resource Plan and identified the critical workforce issues facing the Legislative Assembly Office over the next few years. HRS also developed a plan for the LAO Health and Safety program online, which focuses on safety essentials and taking time for wellness.

Programs/Training

Through the Employee Assistance and Recovery Program, HRS supported 10 employees on extended absences from work and coordinated successful return to work programs. HRS also consulted with 20 employees regarding solutions for ergonomic concerns and coordinated flu shots for over 200 Legislature employees.

On a similar note, first aid training was provided to 56 staff members, retirement and career development training to 21 staff members, and career counseling to five employees.

As well, VCSS coordinated the training of Legislative Assembly security staff in basic defensive tactics and the involvement of Pages in a professional development program consisting of seminars on parliamentary democracy and a speech competition.

Organizational Changes

Five new staff successfully completed the intensive four-week *Hansard* sessional input editor training program for the spring sittings. In addition, two experienced input editors began training as copy editors/proofreaders in the fall of 2005.

A new Head of Visitor Services was hired in February, and VCSS continued to coordinate the Legislative Assembly Page Program. HRS assisted with the hiring of nine new Pages.

KEY RESPONSIBILITY AREA 4

Provision of Support to Maintain and Develop the Parliamentary System in Alberta.

Alberta Centennial

Communication Services and Visitor,

Continued next page

Ceremonial and Security Services were involved in the planning and execution of the visit of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II to the Legislature and the matinee performance of the Alberta Centennial Tattoo. As well, staff liaised with members of the 2005 Alberta Centennial Initiative to ensure that Alberta's Centennial was promoted at all events at the Legislature.

For the provincial centennial, Library Services along with staff from the office of the Clerk researched information for a series of historical vignettes about the province and its system of parliamentary governance to be presented by the Speaker in the House each sitting day.

100 Years of Democracy

March 15, 2006, marks 100 years since Alberta's first Legislative Assembly sat for the first time. Planning for the celebrations, coined "100 Years of Democracy," was well on its way in 2005, and a multi-branch committee was struck. In keeping with the mandate of the LAO, focus will be on honouring MLAs and educating the public about parliament.

Communication Services supported planning efforts for the Legislative Assembly Centennial, which involved event planning, promotions, advertising and media relations. A few projects worth mentioning are the *100 Years at the Legislative Assembly of Alberta – A Centennial Celebration* coffee table book, the series of commemorative plaques to be placed in the Legislature pedway, the medallions project and the banners project, all to be unveiled in 2006.

In a special joint venture with LearnAlberta and Alberta Education, Communication Services along with Visitor, Ceremonial and Security Services (VCSS), Library Services and ITS provided support for the development and promotion of an exciting and groundbreaking 3-D Virtual Visit of the Alberta Legislature. The Virtual Visit is expected to be launched in 2006.

Library staff continued to research, write and edit the three historical/biographical works as part of the Centennial Series, a four-volume set to commemorate the centennial of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta. As well, in a joint effort between the office of the Clerk and the office of the Chief Electoral Officer a fourth book, highlighting Alberta's electoral history, was produced. Communications Services has provided design and production support for all of volumes in the Centennial Series.

A stained glass window was commissioned to celebrate the Centennial of the Legislative Assembly as well as that of the Legislature Library in 2006.

Associations

The LAO is actively involved in national and international associations that not only support and maintain the parliamentary system in Alberta but provide the opportunity for skill development and networking as well.

House Services, with the assistance of Communications Services and the Clerk Assistant, organized the 22nd Regional Meeting of the America Region of the Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie (APF), the eighth triennial conference of the Commonwealth *Hansard* Editors Association and the Joint Canadian-American Clerks' Conference. House Services also provided support to Alberta MLAs attending the Joint Conference of Legislative Auditors and Canadian Council of Public Accounts Committees in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, in August and the Council on Governmental Ethics Laws in Boston, Massachusetts.

Community Initiatives

The LAO once again organized staff events in support of the United Way. The extraordinary efforts of volunteer staff earned a bronze citation as well as the distinction of achieving the highest staff participation in the 149 to 250 staff category.

The *Hansard* display module in the Interpretive Centre, which allows visitors to answer an online quiz and do a sample transcription, continued to be a popular stop for visitors to the LAO.

A series of exhibits in the pedway showcased various elements of Alberta's history such as memorabilia of past royal visits to Alberta and Alberta's Famous Five Maquette.

The School-at-the-Legislature program continued to bring together Alberta grade 6 students and Members of the Assembly along with Legislature and LAO staff. This program has grown steadily since its inception and in the 2004/2005 year saw 33 classes participate for a total of 853 students. Mr. Speaker's MLA for a Day program did not take place in 2005 due to the general election in the fall of 2004. The

Continued next page

program will resume in April 2006. VCSS in conjunction with the Speaker's Office coordinated and facilitated the use of the Chamber and precincts for six model parliaments.

The Table Officers continued participation as Alberta correspondents for the *Parliamentary Review* and the *Table Review*.

17

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS

HOUSE SERVICES COMPARATIVE STATISTICS

	2005 First Session 26th Legislature	2004 Fourth Session 25th Legislature	2003 Third Session 25th Legislature
Sitting Days (hours)			
Spring	42 (223)	43 (204)	46 (256)
Fall	11 (60)	N/A	10 (65)
Evening Sittings (hours)			
Spring	28 (75)	29 (58)	31 (87)
Fall	8 (20)	N/A	8 (25)
Government Bills			
Introduced	58	35	57
Rec'd Royal Assent	58	35	55
Private Bills			
Introduced	4	5	2
Rec'd Royal Assent	4	4	2
Private Members' Public Bills			
Introduced	13	15	18
Rec'd Royal Assent	2	3	5
Government Motions			
Debated	26	17	28
Agreed to	25	16	24
Withdrawn	0	0	0
Private Members' Motions			
Placed on Order Paper	79	58	64
Agreed to	5	7	9
Defeated	6	2	2
Withdrawn	0	0	1
Written Questions			
Placed on Order Paper	45	88	32
Accepted	29	63	14
Rejected	12	11	1
Withdrawn	0	0	0
Removed from Order Paper	1	N/A	N/A
Motions for Returns			
Placed on Order Paper	50	213	35
Accepted	32	22	7
Rejected	17	102	7
Withdrawn	1	1	0

Continued next page

HOUSE SERVICES COMPARATIVE STATISTICS (CONTINUED)

	2005 First Session 26th Legislature	2004 Fourth Session 25th Legislature	2003 Third Session 25th Legislature
Committee of Supply (days)			
Main Estimates	24	15	15
Supplementary	5	1	2
Interim	1	2	N/A
Tablings	827	379	919
Petitions (excluding Private Bills)			
Presented	115	31	67
Recognitions	55	155	187
Members' Statements	236	84	119
Ministerial Statements	7	4	12
Pages Published			
Journals	627	484	664
Votes and Proceedings	397	286	422
Order Paper	478	580	465

Committee Meetings for 2005	
Standing Committee on the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund	4
Standing Committee on Legislative Offices	8
Special Standing Committee on Members' Services	3
Standing Committee on Public Accounts	13
Select Special Conflicts of Interest Act Review Committee	7
Select Special Chief Electoral Officer Search Committee	1

HANSARD COMPARATIVE STATISTICS

	2005	2004	2003
Public Information and Subscriptions* **			
Legislature Information Calls	3,783	5,208	6,585
Congratulatory Scrolls*	2,840	2,093	2,388
Paid Subscriptions			
Daily *Hansard*	90	90	95
Hansard Bound Volumes	28	27	31
Bills, Votes	238	240	240
Journals	238	240	240
Complimentary Issues			
Daily *Hansard*	310	330	330
Hansard Bound Volumes	102	104	104
Bills, Votes	415	425	425
Order Paper	365	375	371
***Hansard* Index and Online Inquiries**	28	44	41
Website Inquiries	2	27	87
Hansard Statistics			
Hansard Pages	2,044	1,424**	2,104
Standing and Special Committees			
Meetings Reported	41	31	28
Meeting Hours	72	75	35
Transcript Pages	560	582	278
Total *Hansard* and Committee Transcript Pages	**2,604**	**2,006**	**2,382**
Miscellaneous			
Interviews (Library Project)			
Interviews Reported	3	8	19
Interview Hours	3	16	6
Transcript Pages	25	118	47
Speech reprints issued (paper)	412	122	236
Speech reprints issued (audio)	50		
Use of Hansard display in Interpretive Centre			
Number of Quizzes Taken	661	371	828
Number of Transcriptions Done	667	380	940

* **Scroll issue suspended during provincial election period**

** **No fall session as a result of provincial election**

*** **Legislature Information line/scrolls responsibility transferred to Communication Services effective 2005**

LIBRARY SERVICES COMPARATIVE STATISTICS

	2005	2004	2003
Total Number of Volumes in the Collection	413,940	402,189	381,616
Items Borrowed for Use Outside the Library	8,657	6,103	5,025
Items Used On-site	5,407	8,696	7,848
Number of Sessional Papers Added to the Collection	827	379*	919
Number of Requests Requiring Less than 15 Minutes to Complete	3,015	2,678	3,228
Number of Requests Requiring 15 Minutes to One Hour to Complete	859	870	801
Number of Requests Requiring More Than One Hour to Complete	303	343	247
MLA/LAO Usage of the Library's Internet Site	20,943	15,211**	22,885
Number of Times the Online Catalogue was Accessed Remotely	193,002	202,869	184,330
Number of Interlibrary Loan Requests from Members and Staff	1,258***	997***	376

* **No Fall Session as a result of a provincial general election.**

** **Statistics could not be collected for part of 2004 due to a change in servers. In addition, no fall session was held.**

*** **A large proportion of the increase in MLA and staff interlibrary loan requests can be attributed to the material obtained by staff for research purposes for Centennial book projects.**

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES COMPARATIVE STATISTICS

	2005	2004	2003	2002
Equipment In Place				
Constituency Workstations	181	175	140	138
Constituency Printers	159	143	135	132
LAN Workstations	266	250	195	229
LAN Laser Printers	50	55	50	50
Printers (Not Networked)	124	153	105	101
Servers	28	27	19	17
Laptop Computers	226	217	170	158
Equipment Replaced				
Obsolete Workstations	60	151	86	81
Obsolete Laser Printers	21	20	20	19
Obsolete Laptop Computers	56	28	31	9
Training				
Training Days	35	59	84	75
Regular Training	20	45	11	57
ITS Staff Technical Training	15	14	23	18

FMAS COMPARATIVE STATISTICS

	2005	2004	2003
Administrative			
Constituency Offices, Moved	7	10	1
Constituency Offices, New	5	3	0
Constituency Offices, Closed	0	3	1
Leases Processed (New or Renewals)	30	28	11
Telecommunications Services Installed or Moved	17	12	5
Telecommunications – Service Requests	190	227	150
Direct Purchase Orders Issued	148	92	90
MLA Purchase Orders Processed	5,975	5,075	5,530
Other Requests Processed	3,986	2,986	3,344
Special Requests Processed	370	295	265
Supplies Orders Processed – Online Ordering System	845	693	754
Supplies Orders Processed – Manual	282	231	253
Financial*			
Invoices Coded and Data Entered	15,869	16,942	17,676
Payments Issued	9,982	10,686	10,985

* **Financial statistics are based on the fiscal year. 2005 is April 1, 2004, to March 31, 2005.**

VCSS COMPARATIVE STATISTICS

	2005	2004	2003
Visitors to Legislature and Interpretive Centre			
Visitors on Tour	46,874	43,351	38,936
Special Events	86,827	46,536	65,602
Casual	31,599	48,634	30,022
Total Visitors	176,096	147,145	143,963
Tours and Programs			
Regular Tours	2,104	2,075	2,623
VIP Tours	40	29	18
Educational Programs	390	422	344
Public Service Orientation Tours	40	35	40
Gallery Seats Reserved	7,085	n/a	n/a
Total Visitors to the Galleries	11,374	8744	n/a
Gift Shop Sales	$127,898	$98,569	$99,473
MLA Sales	$449,857	$238,644	$251,757

IMPARTIALITY

Acting in an impartial and objective manner at all times to support the unique and politically neutral role of the LAO.

OUR VALUES

Photo above: the 26th Legislative Assembly of Alberta during session.

Photo above: in celebration of Alberta's centennial, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II visited Alberta's Legislature.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

As at March 31, 2005

- Auditor's Report
- Statement of Financial Position
- Statement of Changes in Net Liabilities
- Statement of Operations
- Statement of Cash Flows
- Notes to the Financial Statements
- Schedule 1 – Expenses Detailed by Object
- Schedule 2 – Salary and Benefits Disclosure

AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

I have audited the statement of financial position of the Legislative Assembly Office (the Office) as at March 31, 2005 and the statements of changes in net liabilities, operations, and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Office's management. My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit.

I conducted my audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that I plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In my opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Office as at March 31, 2005 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

Edmonton, Alberta
June 30, 2005

FCA
Auditor General

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As at March 31, 2005

	2005	2004
Assets		
Current Assets:		
Cash	$ 4,644	$ 6,519
Prepaid expenses	$ 74,788	$ 43,278
Accounts receivable and advances	$ 528,253	$ 390,309
Inventory held for resale	$ 250,879	$ 251,631
	$ 858,564	**$ 691,737**
Capital assets (Note 4)	$ 1,694,331	$ 1,549,670
	$ 2,552,895	**$ 2,241,407**
Liabilities & Net Liabilities		
Current Liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	$ 2,116,587	$ 1,380,069
Members' transition allowance liability (Note 6)	$ 14,688,634	$ 16,935,110
Vacation pay liability	$ 771,448	$ 831,216
	$ 15,460,082	**$ 17,766,326**
Net liabilities	($ 15,023,774)	($ 16,904,988)
	$2,552,895	**$ 2,241,407**

The accompanying notes and schedules are part of these financial statements.

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET LIABILITIES

For the year ended March 31, 2005

	2005	2004
Net liabilities at beginning of year	$ (16,904,988)	$ (14,205,960)
Net operating results	$ (32,759,115)	$ (31,747,928)
Net transfer from general revenues	$ 34,640,329	$ 29,048,900
Net liabilities at end of year	**$ (15,023,774)**	**$ (16,904,988)**

The accompanying notes and schedules are part of these financial statements.

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

For the year ended March 31, 2005

	2005		2004
	Budget	Actual	Actual
Revenues	(NOTE 8)		
Gift shop sales, services, and fees	$ 447,000	$ 482,208	$ 391,309
Other	-	$ 84,467	$ 65,882
Contribution from Alberta Infrastructure for accommodations costs provided at no charge (Note 5)	-	$ 882,982	$ 584,498
	$ 447,000	**$ 1,449,657**	**$ 1,041,689**
Expenses			
Voted:			
Alberta Alliance Opposition services	-	$ 28,020	-
Electoral boundaries commission	-	-	$21,960
Financial management and administrative services	$ 598,000	$ 672,359	$ 544,088
Government members' services	$ 2,695,000	$ 2,122,925	$ 2,136,834
House services	$ 4,004,000	$ 3,554,671	$ 3,232,697
Human resource services	$ 768,000	$ 742,551	$ 680,150
Independent Members' services	-	$ 8,886	-
Information technology services	$ 2,491,000	$ 2,299,874	$ 2,166,046
Legislative committees	$ 380,000	$ 148,848	$ 115,497
Legislature Library	$ 1,627,000	$ 1,908,373	$ 1,573,907
MLA administration	$ 23,466,000	$ 21,497,552	$ 20,919,033
New Democrat Opposition services	$ 299,000	$ 362,268	$ 299,965
Office of the Speaker	$ 377,000	$ 390,699	$ 372,319
Official Opposition services	$ 823,000	$ 886,828	$ 834,262
Public Information Branch	$ 1,136,000	$ 764,914	$ 824,365
	$ 38,664,000	**$ 35,388,768**	**$ 33,721,123**
Valuation adjustments:			
Accommodation costs (Note 5)		$ 882,982	$ 584,498
Capitalization of assets expensed as supplies (Note 3b)		$ (1,126,400)	$ (1,259,500)
Amortization of capital assets (Note 3b)		$ 981,739	$ 996,109
Provision for (reduction in) member's transition allowance liability (Note 6)		$ (1,865,463)	$ (1,289,273)
Provision for vacation pay liability		$ (21,744)	$ 30,088
Assets expensed as payments		$ (31,510)	$ 24,440
Net consumption of inventory		$ 752	$ (17,478)
Provision for doubtful accounts receivable		$ (352)	$ (390)
		$ (1,179,996)	$ (931,506)
		$ 34,208,772	$ 32,789,617
Net operating results		**$ (32,759,115)**	**$ (31,747,928)**

The accompanying notes and schedules are part of these financial statements.

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

For the year ended March 31, 2005

	2005	2004
Operating transactions:		
Net operating results	$ (32,759,115)	$ (31,747,928)
Add non-cash charges:		
Amortization of capital assets	$981,739	$ 996,109
Increase in vacation pay liability	$ (59,768)	$ 76,089
(Increase) decrease in prepaid expense payment	$ (31,510)	$ 24,440
(Increase) in accounts receivable and advances	$ (137,944)	$ (55,184)
Decrease (increase) in inventory	$ 752	$ (17,478)
Increase in accounts payable and accrued liabilities	$ 736,518	$ 139,389
(Decrease) increase in transition allowance liability	$ (2,246,476)	$ 2,795,163
Cash used by operating transactions	**$ (33,515,804)**	**$ (27,789,400)**
Capital transactions:		
Acquisition of capital assets	$ (1,126,400)	$ (1,259,500)
Financing transactions:		
Net transfer from general revenues	$ 34,640,329	$ 29,048,900
Net cash provided	$ (1,875)	-
Cash, beginning of year	$ 6,519	$ 6,519
Cash, end of year	$ 4,644	$ 6,519

The accompanying notes and schedules are part of these financial statements.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended March 31, 2005

NOTE 1

Authority

The Legislative Assembly Office (the "Office") is operated under the authority of the *Legislative Assembly Act*. Annual operating budgets are approved by the Special Standing Committee on Members' Services.

NOTE 2

Purpose

Within the traditions of parliamentary democracy as constitutionally established in Alberta, the Legislative Assembly Office will:

1. Support the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly in carrying out the duties of office.
2. Support Members in carrying out their roles as elected representatives of the people of Alberta.
3. Record the proceedings and maintain and preserve the records of the Legislative Assembly.
4. Inform and educate the public on behalf of Members and the institution of Parliament.
5. Support the Assembly in protecting its institutions and privileges.
6. Support the exchange of ideas and information among Legislatures throughout the world.
7. Provide services to external clients as required.

NOTE 3

Summary of Significant Accounting Policies and Reporting Practices

These financial statements are prepared in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles:

a) Reporting Entity

The reporting entity is the Legislative Assembly Office, for which the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly is responsible.

The Office operates within the General Revenue Fund (the "Fund"). The Fund is administrated by the Minister of Finance. All receipts of the Office are deposited into the Fund and all disbursements made by the Office are paid from the Fund. The net transfer from the General Revenues is the difference between all cash receipts and all cash disbursements made.

b) Basis of Financial Reporting

Revenues

All revenues are reported on the accrual basis of accounting.

Expenses

Expenses represent the costs of resources consumed during the year on the Office's operations.

Valuation Adjustments

Valuation adjustments include changes in the valuation allowances used to reflect assets at their net recoverable or other appropriate value. Valuation adjustments also represent the change in management's estimate of future payments arising from obligations relating to vacation pay and transition allowance. Furthermore, accommodation costs, provided by Alberta Infrastructure at no cost, are included in valuation adjustments so as to show the entire cost of the operation of the Office.

Assets

Financial assets of the Office are limited to financial claims such as cash, advances to and accounts receivable from other organizations, employers and other individuals.

Inventory held for resale is reported at the lower of cost and net realizable value.

Capital assets of the Office are recorded at cost and amortized on a straight-line basis, over the estimated useful lives of the assets, invoiced at $2,500 or greater, as follows:

Computer hardware and software - 2 years
Office equipment - 5 years
Furniture - 10 years

Continued next page

The Office follows government budgetary practices that allow funds from an operating budget to be used to purchase capital assets. These purchases are included in expenses on the statement of operations, but are then removed from expenses through a valuation adjustment and are capitalized and amortized over their useful lives.

The fair value of cash and accounts receivable and advances are estimated to approximate their book values.

Liabilities

Liabilities include all financial claims payable by the Office at fiscal year end.

The Members' transition allowance is estimated based on Members' years of service and their most recent remuneration amounts. The annual charge is the amount that is estimated to have been earned by Members during the year.

The fair values of accounts payable and accrued liabilities, vacation pay, and Members' transition allowance are estimated to approximate their book values.

Net Liabilities

Net liabilities represent the difference between the value of assets held by the Office and its liabilities.

NOTE 4 CAPITAL ASSETS

Capital Assets	2005			2004
	Cost	Accumulated Amortization	Net Book Value	Net Book Value
Office Equipment	$ 175,147	$ 120,418	$ 54,729	$ 59,211
Furniture	$ 1,847,591	$ 570,311	$ 1,277,280	$ 1,088,633
Computer hardware and software	$ 5,617,345	$ 5,255,023	$ 362,322	$ 401,826
	$ 7,640,083	**$ 5,945,752**	**$ 1,694,331**	**$ 1,549,670**

NOTE 5

Contribution from Alberta Infrastructure

Included in the $882,982 (2004 - $584,498) contribution from Alberta Infrastructure is $46,349 for renovations to meeting room 512 in the Legislature Building, $84,265 for renovations to the MLA offices on the 5th floor Legislature Annex and $8,060 for upgrades to the Legislature Chamber digital recording and sound systems.

NOTE 6

Members' Transition Allowance

The Office implemented a Members' transition allowance on October 1, 1998. The provisions of the allowance were established in accordance with the Members' Allowances Order (RMSC 1992, c. M-1, as amended, Section 9.)

A transition allowance is paid to every Member at the time of dissolution of the Legislature unless they are re-elected in the next election. Members who resign their seats are also eligible for the allowance.

Under section 9, the amount paid for service commencing on or after March 20, 1989, is determined by multiplying three months' salary, based on the average monthly salary for the three calendar years in which the person received their highest salary, by the number of years the person served as a Member on or after March 20, 1989. "Salary" is defined in section 9(1). For service periods prior to March 20, 1989, the allowance is calculated by multiplying the highest rate of a Member's monthly indemnity and expense allowances for one month for every year of service prior to March 20, 1989 with no

Continued next page

NOTE 6 MEMBERS' TRANSITION ALLOWANCE

In the event of death of an active Member, a transition allowance equivalent to the amount owed at passing is paid to the Member's estate.

Liability as at March 31, 2004	$16,935,110
Total transition allowance payments as at March 31, 2005	$(4,581,013)
Total transition allowance expense as at March 31, 2005	$2,334,537
Liability as at March 31, 2005	$14,688,634
Voted expense	$4,200,000
Valuation adjustment	$(1,865,463)
Total transition allowance expense as at March 31, 2005	$2,334,537

restrictions. There is no credit for years of service for which the Member has previously received a payment under Section 9 or the predecessor section. Eligible recipients may elect to be paid the allowance over a period of up to four years.

NOTE 7

Defined Benefit Plans

The Office participates in the following multi-employer pension plans: Management Employees Pension Plan and Public Service Pension Plan. The Office also participates in the multi-employer Supplementary Retirement Plan for Public Service Managers. The expense for these pension plans is equivalent to the annual contributions of $586,759 for the year ending March 31, 2005 (2004 - $542,663).

At December 31, 2004, the Management Employees Pension Plan reported a deficiency of $268,101,000 (2003 – $290,014,000) and the Public Service Pension Plan reported a deficiency of $450,068,000 (2003 – $584,213,000). At December 31, 2004, the Supplementary Retirement Plan for Public Service Managers had a surplus of $9,404,000 (2003- $9,312,000).

The Office also participates in a multi-employer Long Term Disability Income Continuance Plan. At March 31, 2005, the Management, Opted Out and Excluded Plan reported an actuarial surplus of $3,208,000 (2004- $1,298,000). The expense for this plan is limited to employer's annual contributions for the year.

NOTE 8 BUDGET

As at March 31, 2005

Expenses:	
2004 – 2005 budget [a]	$ 38,664,000
2004 –2005 actual expenses (excluding valuation adjustments)	$ 35,388,768
2004 –2005 unexpended (excluding valuation adjustments)	$ 3,275,232

(a) 2004-05 Offices of the Legislative Assembly Estimates released on March 24, 2004.

Continued next page

NOTE 9

Approval of Financial Statements

These financial statements were approved by the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.

SCHEDULE 1 – EXPENSES DETAILED BY OBJECT

For the year ended March 31, 2005

	2005		2004
	Budget	Actual	Actual
EXPENSES:			
Salaries, wages and employer contributions	$ 13,334,394	$ 12,840,975	$ 12,370,090
Supplies and services	$ 11,688,006	$ 10,056,010	$ 8,968,415
Grants	$ 6,000	$ 2,150	$ 1,700
Payments to MLAs and Executive Council	$ 13,635,600	$ 12,489,633	$ 12,380,918
Total expenses	**$ 38,664,000**	**$ 35,388,768**	**$ 33,721,123**

Photo above: the Sergeant-at-Arms/Director of Visitor, Ceremonial and Security Services presenting at the Winter Constituency Outreach Seminar.

SCHEDULE 2 – SALARY AND BENEFITS DISCLOSURE

For the year ended March 31, 2005

	2005				2004
	Base Salary [1]	Other Cash Benefits [2]	Other Non-cash Benefits [3]	Total	Total
Senior Official					
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly (4)	$ 150,844	$15,739	$ 28,779	$ 195,362	$ 177,449
Senior Management Team					
Senior Financial Officer	$ 68,537	$ 15,153	$ 12,647	$ 96,337	$ 173,462
Senior Parliamentary Counsel	$ 117,778	$ 11,778	$ 24,829	$ 154,385	$ 160,144
Senior Parliamentary Counsel	$ 110,943	$ 11,094	$ 28,997	$ 151,034	$ 151,031
Director, Information Technology and Human Resource Services	$ 107,943	$ 15,397	$ 21,821	$ 145,161	$ 143,745
Legislature Librarian	$ 85,011	$ 12,935	$ 17,385	$ 115,331	$ 104,981
Clerk Assistant	$ 90,161	$ 13,025	$ 18,713	$ 121,899	$ 111,414
Director of Visitor, Ceremonial, & Security Services and Sergeant-At-Arms	$ 86,136	$ 8,039	$ 17,984	$ 112,159	$ 111,414
Director of Financial Management and Administrative Services and Senior Financial Officer (5)	$ 60,062	$ 6,568	$ 15,513	$ 82,143	-
Manager Sub-total	$ 726,571	$ 93,989	$ 157,889	$ 978,449	$ 956,191
	$ 877,415	$ 109,728	$ 186,668	$ 1,173,811	$ 1,133,640

(1) Base salary includes regular base pay

(2) Other cash benefits include bonuses and vacation payouts

(3) Other non-cash benefits includes the Legislative Assembly Office's share of all employee benefits and contributions or payments made on behalf of employees including pension, health care, dental coverage, group life insurance, short-and long-term disability plans, WCB premiums, professional memberships and tuition.

(4) Automobile is provided; no dollar amount included in benefits and allowances figures

(5) Position created on July 6, 2004

Photo above: Alberta's centennial festivities at the Legislature Grounds.

FORMER MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY

Obituaries

GEORGE HO LEM

June 15, 1918 - July 9, 2005

Mr. Ho Lem was first elected on August 30, 1971 to represent the constituency of Calgary-McCall for the Social Credit Party and served until March 26, 1975.

During his term of office Mr. Ho Lem served on the Select Standing Committees on Law and Regulations; Privileges and Elections, Standing Orders and Printing; and Public Affairs. He also served on the Select Special Committee on Foreign Investment.

JOHN S. BATIUK

March 20, 1923 - August 1, 2005

Mr. Batiuk was first elected on August 30, 1971 to represent the constituency of Vegreville for the Progressive Conservative Party and served until May 8, 1986.

During his years of service Mr. Batiuk served on the Select Standing Committees on Law and Regulations; Private Bills; Public Accounts; Public Affairs; and the Select Special Committee on Chief Electoral Officer Appointment or Search.

SHEILA EMBURY

June 6, 1931 - August 1, 2005

Mrs. Embury was first elected on March 14, 1979 to represent the constituency of Calgary-North West for the Progressive Conservative Party and served until May 8, 1986.

During her years of service Mrs. Embury served on the Select Standing Committees on Members' Services; Private Bills; Privileges and Elections, Standing Orders and Printing; Public Accounts and Public Affairs. She also served on the Select Special Committee to Examine the Role of Upper House in the Canadian Federal System.

OUR VALUES

INTEGRITY

Providing services in an accountable, responsive, ethical and dedicated manner.

Photo Above: Joint American-Canadian Clerks' Conference held in Alberta from October 11 to 16, 2005.

Photo above: every year thousands gather at the Legislature to celebrate Canada Day.

COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION

Alberta Branch

Overview

The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) is an association of members of Commonwealth parliaments who, irrespective of race, religion, or culture, are united by community of interest, respect for the rule of law and individual rights and freedoms, and by pursuit of the positive ideals of democracy. Canada was one of the six original member countries of the CPA when it was formed in 1911 under the name of the Empire Parliamentary Association. Each provincial and territorial Legislative Assembly in Canada as well as the federal parliament comprises a branch of the CPA. All Members of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta are members of the Alberta branch of the CPA.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Speaker Ken Kowalski, President of the Alberta Branch of the CPA

Every year I, along with many of my colleagues, have the pleasure of attending a variety of parliamentary conferences. Every year my own positive experiences as well as those shared with me by my colleagues reinforce the importance of meetings among legislators from across Canada and around the world.

We learn a great deal through collaboration with other parliaments, and every once in a while we, too, have a bit of wisdom to share.

At the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association's 43rd Canadian Regional Conference one of our Members, Mrs. Mary Anne Jablonski, presented on Private Members' Bills in Alberta and how changes to the Standing Orders have allowed her and several other private Members to bring forward meaningful legislation.

I believe that the changes that were made to the Standing Orders in 1993 have been of significant benefit to Members.

Since 1993, 39 Private Members' Public Bills have been passed by the Assembly. Allowing private Members to bring forward important legislation ensures that the needs of the public are met.

In addition, the elimination of Friday as a sitting day has enabled Members to spend more time in their constituencies during session.

Private Members have a real voice in our Assembly, and that voice is strong.

On a similar note, at the 27th Canadian Regional Parliamentary Seminar delegates discussed the changing role of the MLA. It seems to be agreed that in general MLAs are

afforded more responsibility and more input into cabinet and caucus.

On another note, the 51st Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference held in Nadi, Fiji Islands, focussed on global partnerships for development. Topics such as debt cancellation and fairness in the international economy were discussed.

As well, the issue of improving governance was highlighted. There is some fear that in developing countries parliaments are not yet separate enough from government to promote much-needed development.

On a local level and, even more, on a global level there are many complex problems that cannot be answered overnight. But I sincerely believe that through interparliamentary relations and thoughtful legislation we can make a positive difference.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

W.J. David McNeil, Secretary of the Alberta Branch of the CPA and Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

It is part of my role as Clerk of the Legislative Assembly to assist with the coordination of Member participation in interparliamentary activities.

In 2005, 14 parliamentary conferences were attended by Members of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta or support staff of the Legislative Assembly Office.

Two conferences were held in Alberta in 2005: the Regional Assemblée Parlementaire de la Francophonie and the Joint American-Canadian Clerks' Conference.

The Regional Assemblée Parlementaire de la Francophonie was held in Alberta from September 14 to 18. This conference brought delegates from across Canada to celebrate and discuss the state of French culture in Canada. At an awards ceremony medals of the Ordre de la Pléiade were presented to individuals who contributed to the promotion of French in their respective jurisdictions. Five Members of the Legislative Assembly were among those awarded. They were Premier Klein, Speaker Kowalski, Minister Hancock, Minister Zwozdesky and MLA Denis Ducharme.

The Joint American-Canadian Clerks' Conference, held from October 11 to 16, afforded me the opportunity to host over 35 delegates from across North America. My staff and I enjoyed networking with clerks from other jurisdictions and presenting them with informative sessions.

The topics covered were congressionalizing the Canadian parliamentary system, Alberta's 2004 provincial election judicial recount, the passage of budgets and bills in a bicameral system, minding information in the wired world, and challenges in the relationship between the legislative and executive branches.

It was especially rewarding to share the sights, sounds and history of Alberta during our province's centennial year.

Bursaries

Bursaries are presented annually to nominees from TUXIS Parliament of Alberta and the Alberta Girls' Parliament to increase interest in the parliamentary process among young Albertans. On July 27 Deputy Speaker Richard Marz awarded bursaries to Andrew David Weiss of Cypress-Medicine Hat from TUXIS Parliament of Alberta and to Shera Lea Crichton and Amanda Tinworth, both of Grande Prairie-Smoky, from the Alberta Girls' Parliament.

Grade 6 Essay Contest

A province-wide essay contest is held annually for Grade 6 students to encourage greater awareness of the Commonwealth and the parliamentary system. In 2005 the grand prize went to Shaina Somji of Calgary-Cross.

Photo above: Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II during her visit to the Alberta Legislature during Alberta's centennial year.

CONFERENCES*

22ND CANADIAN REGIONAL PRESIDING OFFICERS' CONFERENCE

Halifax, Nova Scotia
January 20–23, 2005

Hon. Ken Kowalski, Speaker
Dr. W.J. David McNeil, Clerk

Agenda

JANUARY 20

- Registration and opening ceremony hosted by Hon. Murray Scott, Speaker of the Nova Scotia House of Assembly

JANUARY 21

- Breakfast and opening remarks by Hon. Murray Scott
- First business session topic, "The mechanics of democracy: a made-in-B.C. electoral system," presented by Mr. Robert Vaive, Clerk Assistant, British Columbia
- Special Report, "Monitoring the Ukraine election," by Hon. Myron Kowalsky, Speaker, Saskatchewan
- Second business session topic, "Omnibus bills: have we run the wheels off?" presented by Mr. Rod MacArthur, Q.C., Chief Clerk, Nova Scotia
- Third business session topic, "Legislative scrutiny and the Charter of Rights: a review of Senate practices and procedures," presented by Mr. Gary O'Brien, Deputy Clerk and Principal Clerk in the Senate
- Fourth business session topic, "The Speaker's outreach program in Manitoba," presented by Ms Patricia Chaychuk, Clerk, Manitoba
- Reception at Government House hosted by Madam Justice Constance Glube, administrator of the province of Nova Scotia
- Dinner at Red Chamber hosted by Hon. Murray Scott and Mrs. Linda Scott

JANUARY 22

- Fifth business session topic, "Parliamentary reform under consideration at the National Assembly and the preparation of a code of ethics for Members" presented by Ms Diane Leblanc, MNA, vice-présidente de l'Assemblée Nationale du Québec
- Sixth business session topic, "Board of management: administrative functionary or defender of the faith?" presented by Hon. Paul Delorey, Speaker, and Mr. Tim Mercer, Clerk, Northwest Territories
- Traditional Nova Scotia lobster supper hosted by Hon. Murray Scott and Mrs. Linda Scott

** Conference reports have been edited for length.*

JANUARY 23

- Farewell brunch

PRESIDENTS OF ASSEMBLÉE PARLEMENTAIRE DE LA FRANCOPHONIE

Fredericton, New Brunswick
February 18-20, 2005

Louise Kamuchik, Clerk Assistant

Agenda

- Word of welcome
- Adoption of agenda
- Report on attendance at the APF Bureau meeting held in Hué, Vietnam, in January 2005
- Report from the chargé de mission on the activities of the America Region, July to December 2004
- Calendar of upcoming activities
- Follow-up on the resolutions from the XXI Regional Session, America Region, held in Charlottetown, July 2004
- Update on XXII Regional Session, America Region, Edmonton
- Sharing of responsibilities, America Region, beginning July 2005
- Statement of 2004-2005 revenues and expenses, America Region, and anticipated 2005–2006 budgetary requirements
- Other business

PARTNERSHIP OF PARLIAMENTS STUDY TOUR 2005

Germany
October 21-30, 2005

Ray Danyluk, MLA, Lac La Biche-St Paul
Frank Oberle, MLA, Peace River
Janis Tarchuk, MLA, Banff-Cochrane
Dr. W.J. David McNeil, Clerk

Agenda

- Current state of German-Canadian relations
- Germany and Austria and the future of federalism within the EU
- Munich as business location-facts and figures
- The European Union and the free state of Bavaria-government relations from the executive point of view
- Activities of the BMW Foundation Herbert Quandt
- The future of transatlantic relations

Discussions included meetings with:

- Canadian embassy officials
- The Speaker of the Rhineland-Palatinate House
- Consuls from the Alberta, Ontario and Quebec trade offices in Munich
- The Speaker of the Salzburg Legislature
- Staff of the Canadian Consulate General in Munich
- The Deputy Speaker of the Bavarian Legislature
- Representatives of the Libertarian Party of the Berlin House of Representatives
- The Green caucus of the Bavarian Legislature
- The deputy majority leader of the Christian Social Union
- The lord mayor of the city of Dachau
- The bureau chief, Partnership of Parliaments

Delegates' Report

Thank you for providing us with the opportunity to participate in this worthwhile study tour. We found the exchange a very valuable experience. It is interactions like this that underscore the importance of dialogue with our democratic counterparts around the world.

We learned much about electoral reform and differences in parliamentary procedures that will benefit future discussions on our own Senate reform and representation.

Germany's high unemployment rate was surprising and indicated an opportunity for a potential resource for Alberta/Canada as we tackle workforce shortage issues. It was also

clear to us that the embassy and consuls would benefit from regular updates on provincial activities to enhance Alberta representation.

Lastly, we must add that while it was not the focus of our trip, we very much appreciated the warm hospitality of our new-found parliamentarian friends and thoroughly enjoyed our visits to numerous historical sites.

51ST COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE AND COMMONWEALTH WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS

Nadi, Fiji
September 1-9, 2005

Hon. Ken Kowalski, Speaker
Dr. W.J. David McNeil, Clerk

CANADIAN COUNCIL OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEES CONFERENCE (CCPAC)

Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario
August 20-23, 2005

Len Webber - MLA, Calgary-Foothills
George VanderBurg - MLA, Whitecourt-Ste. Anne
Dave Rodney - MLA, Calgary Lougheed
Doug Griffiths - MLA, Battle River-Wainwright
Corinne Dacyshyn, Committee Clerk

Agenda

AUGUST 20

- Arrival of delegates

AUGUST 21

- Arrival and registration of guests - visit Niagara Falls
- Welcome reception at Queen's Landing Inn

AUGUST 22

- Joint CCPAC/Canadian Council of Legislative Auditors (CCOLA) opening ceremonies

  Topic - Prescription for Excellence: Innovation is the Cure for what Ails Medicare, with guest speaker Dr. Michael Rachlis, private consultant.

- Second Session - Governance in the Public Service of Canada: Ministerial and Deputy Ministerial Accountability. Chaired by John Williams, MP & chair of standing committee
- Joint luncheon with CCOLA delegates with guest speaker, Ms Wendy Nicklin, president and CEO, Canadian Council on Health Services Accreditation
- Third Session - reports from jurisdictions
- Fourth Session - reports from jurisdictions
- Tour of Hillebrand Estates Winery

AUGUST 23

- Joint CCPAC/CCOLA session

  Topic - Results of CCAF's Research on Parliamentary Oversight - Committees and Relationships presented by Michael Eastman, CCAF and Libby MacRae, CCAF.

- Breakout groups and reporting back.

Report by: Doug Griffiths

As a new member of the Public Accounts Committee it was indeed an insight to learn about the different strategies and methods theses other public accounts committees follow. As well, I acquired a greater understanding of the role and responsibilities of a Public Accounts Committee within the legislative process. It was very interesting to learn of the diversity of approaches that are used to ensure that taxpayer dollars are spent appropriately and effectively. Thank you for the opportunity you have afforded me to learn and to be a better MLA.

Report by: Dave Rodney

Thank you for the opportunity to be part of the delegation representing our Public Accounts and Legislative Offices committees. My colleagues who were present and the other members of our respective committees will be having fruitful discussions soon with respect to how to make our groups more effective in the future, and I am sure that we will be making some very positive, tangible changes as a result of this.

27TH ANNUAL CANADIAN REGION PARLIAMENTARY SEMINAR

Summerside, PEI
October 20-23, 2005

Lloyd Snelgrove - MLA, Vermilion-Lloydminster
Len Mitzel - MLA, Cypress-Medicine Hat
Alana DeLong - MLA, Calgary-Bow

Agenda

OCTOBER 20

- Registration and Welcoming Reception

OCTOBER 21

- Water Stewardship in Manitoba
- Prince Edward Island's Electoral Future
- Women in Politics

OCTOBER 22

- The Role of the Opposition and the Role of Government
- The Changing Role of MLAs

OCTOBER 23

- Departure from Halifax

Report by: Alana DeLong, Lloyd Snelgrove and Len Mitzel

Water Stewardship, clean water is a challenge with the major Lake Winnipeg. Manitoba has made significant changes to consolidate the appropriate agencies into a single department by merging the Department Of Natural Resources into a new Department of Conservation and Environment and have passed a new Water Protection Act.

Comparisons were drawn to the Alberta Strategy "Water for Life".

P.E.I.'s Electoral Future: P.E.I. is holding a referendum on proportional representation. The local members at the table felt the referendum would not pass.

The Role of the Opposition and the Role of Government. Other than the order of questions and time allotted for question period, procedures are very similar in all jurisdictions except Nunavut. Most members present favored question period. A comment was made that people should be assertive but also respectful.

The Changing Role of MLAs. MLAs are now being charged with more responsibility and have more input into Cabinet and Caucus, and all welcome the opportunity. Why do we get involved? It seems to be a need or passion to serve community combined with a fire in our belly.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES

Seattle, Washington
August 16-20, 2005

Hon. Ken Kowalski - Speaker
Tony Abbott - MLA, Drayton Valley-Calmar
David Eggen - MLA, Edmonton-Calder
Wayne Cao - MLA, Calgary-Fort

Agenda

AUGUST 16

International Delegate Registration

- ASLCS International Program: Connected People, Connected World
- Welcome and Introductions - Hon. Irving Stolberg, former president, NCSL
- Representative Democracy in a World with a War on Terrorism– Hon. Jim Costa, U.S. Congressman, California
- Public Diplomacy-Ms. Karen Hughes, Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy & Public Affairs
- International Trade Summit, Delegate John Hurson, Maryland, Pres., NCSL
- Welcome Reception

AUGUST 17

- Opening Plenary - Delegate John Hurson; Speaker, Bill Gates
- Exhibit Hall Opening
- Standing Committee Meetings

AUGUST 18

- Legislative Effectiveness and State Government Committee: Win the Battle without Burning the Battlefield
- Legislator Training Track: Internet Fundraising: The Game has Changed

- Budgets and Revenue Committee: Are State Budgets Sound?
- Energy & Electric Utilities Committee: Protecting our Critical Energy Infrastructure
- Legislators' Luncheon: Biomedical Research and Economic Development
- Concurrent Sessions and Staff Sections (several topics)
- Women Leaders: A Roundtable Discussion with Women from Around the World
- Washington State Social Event: Seattle Center!

AUGUST 19

- Plenary Session - Delegate John Hurson
- International Delegate off-site tour to Olympia
- Legislative Staff Luncheon - The FISH! Philosophy
- Concurrent Sessions & Staff Sections (several topics)

AUGUST 20

- Plenary Session sponsored by State Legislatures Magazine
- Tennessee Kick-Off

Report by David Eggen:

My experience in Seattle was both enriching and energizing. As a legislator, it is absolutely essential to look beyond one's own borders to see how democracy is being executed in other jurisdictions. Perhaps above all else, this was the most valuable and lasting impression I have of this conference. The opportunity to compare notes with other legislators was an honor and privilege I will never forget. I only hope that I might transfer some of the things I learned to make our own province a better place to live, work and raise a family.

Report by Tony Abbott:

The conference had a special program for international guests that focussed on International trade issues as well as special legislator training tracks. Most memorable for me was the plenary session on Education and Technology with guest speaker Bill Gates.

It was a pleasure to meet other Canadian MLAs and MPs. Another highlight was the ongoing trade show held at the conference specifically aimed at State Legislators.

MIDWESTERN LEGISLATORS CONFERENCE (MLC)

Regina, Saskatchewan
July 31 to August 3, 2005

George Rogers, MLA, Leduc-Beaumont-Devon
Ray Martin, MLA, Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview
Lloyd Snelgrove, MLA, Vermilion-Lloydminster

Agenda

JULY 30

- Registration

JULY 31

- MLC Committee and Task Force Meetings
- Executive Committee Meeting
- Opening Night reception

AUGUST 1

- Building our Future Together: a look at the nature and mutual importance of the special relationship between the U.S. and Canada - Colin Robertson, Minister & Head, Washington Advocacy Secretariat
- Breakout session on Joint U.S.-Canada issues
- A View From Washington - Morton Kondracke, Columnist and Fox News Commentator
- Public Policy Roundtable Discussions
- Fiscal Leaders Roundtable
- Professional Development Session, Constituent Services 101: The Electronic Legislator
- Family Night at the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Depot

AUGUST 2

- Plenary Session 1: The Health & Future of the North American Heartland
- Plenary Session 11: U.S./Canada Healthcare Delivery Systems: Mr. Michael Hash

- Canada/U.S. Relations: A Unique Perspective - Pamela Wallin, Canadian Consul General to New York
- Special Presentation: Achieving Personal Excellence: Catriona Le May Doan
- Site Visit to Petroleum Research Centre, University of Regina
- Professional Development Session: Podium Power (sponsored by BILLD)
- Provincial/State Dinner

AUGUST 3

- The Revolutionary Generation: Leadership Then & Now with Joseph Ellis, Historian/Author

Report by: George Rogers

- The sessions were well organized, and there was a lot of opportunity for dialogue. It was an eye-opener to see how many of the issues discussed applied equally to both sides of the border. Topical issues of note included trade, energy and security. It would be my recommendation that Alberta consider joining the MLC and sending delegates to next year's conference.

Report by: Ray Martin

- All in all it was a very good conference with some interesting speakers. Thank you for the opportunity to participate.

REGIONAL ASSEMBLÉE PARLEMENTAIRE DE LA FRANCOPHONIE

Edmonton, Alberta
September 14-18, 2005

Denis Ducharme, MLA, Bonnyville-Cold Lake
Hector Goudreau, MLA, Dunvegan
Denis Herard, MLA Calgary-Egmont
Louise Kamuchik, Clerk Assistant/Director House Services

Agenda

- Official Opening
- Welcome from Mr. Denis Ducharme, Alberta Section
- Presentation by Mr. Michel P. Samson, Chargé de mission, APF, America Region
- Presentation by Dr. Bernard Patry, President, APF America Region
- Presentation by Mr. Jacques Legendre, Parliamentary Secretary, APF
- Presentation by Mr. Freddy Deghillage, Chargé de mission, APF, European Region
- First business session: Politics of Immigration, Welcome and Integration in Francophone Communities
- Second business session: Promotion of French in Canadian Embassies
- Third business session: The Survival of the Francophone Community Outside Quebec in a North American Context

PACIFIC NORTHWEST ECONOMIC REGION (PNWER)

July 14-18, 2005
Seattle, Washington

Richard Marz, MLA, Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills
Mel Knight, MLA, Grande Prairie-Smoky

Agenda

JULY 14

- PNWER Executive Committee
- Welcoming Reception

JULY 15

- Opening Session - Governor Christine Gregoire
- Nanotechnology Summit
- Homeland Security Regional Forum & Technology Showcase
- POWER Working Group Sessions:
  - Transportation
  - Trade & Economic Development
  - Sustainable Development
  - Energy 1
- Opening Reception

JULY 16

- Homeland Security Regional Forum & Technology Showcase

- Working Group Sessions:
  - Agriculture
  - Border Issues
  - Environment
  - Invasive Species
  - Tourism
  - Health Care

JULY 17

- Working Group Sessions:
  - Workforce Development
  - Transportation
  - Energy 11
  - Forestry (Joint meeting with the Western Legislative Forestry Task Force)
- Executive Committee Meeting
- Presidential Dinner

JULY 18

- Conclusion of the Summit

COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION, 43RD CANADIAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE

St. John's, Newfoundland
July 19 - 24, 2005

Hon. Ken Kowalski, Speaker
Ray Prins, MLA, Lacombe-Ponoka
Ron Liepert, MLA, Calgary-West
Ivan Strang, MLA, West Yellowhead
Mary Anne Jablonski, MLA, Red Deer-North
Bev Alenius, Executive Assistant to the Speaker

JULY 19

- Welcome Reception hosted by Hon. Harvey Hodder, Speaker, and Mrs. Pearl Hodder

JULY 20

- Opening Ceremony
- First Session - Private Member's Public Bill "Protection of Children Abusing Drugs Act," presented by Mary Anne Jablonski, MLA, Alberta
- Second Session - Buying Local Food Products; Can it Be Done?
- Third Session - Challenges Facing Rural Communities in an Urban World: a Newfoundland and Labrador Perspective, presented by Mr. Roger Fitzgerald, MHA, NFLD and Labrador
- Reception hosted by His Hon. Edward Roberts, QC, Lieut. Gov. Of Newfoundland and Labrador.

JULY 21

- CPA Canadian Regional Council
- Tour of the town of Brigus

JULY 22

- Fourth Session - The North American Energy Strategy and Newfoundland and Labrador's Oil and Gas Industry
- Fifth Session - Cyberdemocracy at the National Assembly of Quebec
- Sixth Session - Tackling Bullying in Canadian Schools, presented by Myrna Driedger

JULY 23

- Seventh Session - Should the Private Sector be involved in the Financing of Public Infrastructure?
- Eighth Session - Smoking in public places and the retail sale of tobacco products
- Farewell Dinner

July 24 - Departures

Report by: Mary Anne Jablonski, Ron Liepert, Ray Prins

This was a very well organized conference that allowed delegates to meet each other and discuss issues and concerns. The six business presentations were well researched, educational and very well done. One of the greatest benefits of this conference was the opportunity for delegates to network with other parliamentarians and to discuss similar concerns and hear what other provincial representatives are doing to address the challenges that we are all faced with.

Report by: Ivan Strang

The conference was an excellent chance for me to meet colleagues from across our great country. I was thoroughly impressed by all the speakers and found the tour of their historical sites very interesting. Not only was the conference a great learning experience; it was also a marvellous chance for me to make friendships with many different legislators from across Canada and discover a beautiful province.

COUNCIL ON GOVERNMENTAL ETHICS LAWS (COGEL)

Boston, Massachusetts
December 4-7, 2005

Rob Lougheed, MLA, Strathcona
Denis Ducharme, MLA, Bonnyville-Cold Lake
Raj Pannu, MLA, Edmonton-Strathcona
Janis Tarchuk, MLA, Banff-Cochrane

- Electronic Filing
- Serving the Elections Community: Can COGEL Play a Larger Role?
- Campaign Finance Update
- Higher Education Ethics
- In Which Direction are the Winds Blowing on Whistleblowing?
- The Ethics of Transparency: How Transparency Enhances the Work of Government Ethics Officers and Records Management Professionals
- Ethics Update
- Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR): Is it a Tool We can Use?
- Freedom of Information Session
- Planning for Succession
- Lobbying Update
- Watching the Watchdogs: Ethics and the Media
- Engaging Voters and Accessible Elections
- Dispute Resolution and the Role of Ombudsman
- Municipal Ethics Programs - Best Practices
- Tools for Communicating our Effectiveness: Can Practical Performance Measures Help?
- Sharing COGEL Expertise with the International Community
- Internet Voting: Whose 'X' is it?
- Municipal Ethics Training: Useful or Useless?
- Reputation Management for Governmental Ethics Agencies and Officials
- COGEL Model Law
- Technology and Investigations
- The State of Freedom of Information in the Western Hemisphere
- Pay to Play
- Working with Public Interest Groups
- Freedom of Information: Legislative and Court Case Update
- Anatomy of an Impeachment
- Public Funding of Elections
- Effective Training Techniques

Delegate Report:

The program covered ethics, information access and privacy controls, dispute resolution and election and campaign finance issues ongoing in the United States, Canada, and other jurisdictions. There was an emphasis on ethics issues, including lobbying, conflicts of interest legislation and 'whistleblower' laws.

Delegates and session participants at the conference were from the United States, Canada, Mexico, South Africa, Australia, Jamaica and Nicaragua. Canadian jurisdictions were well represented, and presenters, moderators and panelists included officers and senior staff from both federal and provincial level elections, information and privacy and ethics offices.

COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION, 47TH CANADIAN REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

Ottawa, Ontario
June 4, 2005

Teleconference - Hon. Ken Kowalski, Speaker, and Dr. W.J. David McNeil, Clerk

Agenda

- Approval of minutes of the September 1, 2004, meeting
- Financial Matters
- Regional Representative and stand-by branch 2005-06; list of rotation
- Membership of Steering Committee of Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians
- Regional Executive Committee 2005-06
- Canadian Parliamentary Review
- Centre for Legislative Exchange - Professional Development Seminar in Washington
- Delegation Secretaries – 51st Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference
- Conference of Presiding Officer Sites
- Verbal report on Executive Committee Mid Year Meeting in Australia
- CPA – 50th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference Reports
- 18th Commonwealth Parliamentary Seminar 2006

COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION, 48TH CANADIAN REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

Ottawa, Ontario.
July 21, 2005

Hon. Ken Kowalski, Speaker

Agenda

- Adoption of draft agenda
- Approval of the Minutes of the June 4, 2005, meeting
- 50th CPA Conference Report
- Recommendations
- Surplus funds
- Other business

representing the Official Opposition, Brian Mason, Leader of the Third Party, and members of the Francophone community. The École Citadelle School Choir from Legal entertained.

Lieutenant Governor Portrait Unveiling

April 25

On April 25 the official portrait of the late Hon. Dr. Lois Hole was unveiled in the Legislature Rotunda. Hosted by Speaker Kowalski with Deputy Premier Shirley McClellan representing the government, Deputy Prime Minister Anne McLellan, and Mr. Jim Hole on behalf of the Hole family.

Annual Library Spring Tea

May 3

On May 3 the Legislature Library held its 7th annual Spring Tea and Open House. The event was hosted by Speaker Kowalski and featured a multi-media display on the history of the Legislature Library and speeches covering the theme A Century of Service.

60th Anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE Day)

May 5

Following the passing of Government Motion 20 on April 27, 2005, a ceremony took place in the Legislature Chamber on May 5 to commemorate the 60th anniversary of VE Day. For this special occasion the Assembly agreed to permit veterans Commodore (Retired) Doug Learoyd,Captain (Retired) Stu Lindop and Squadron Leader (Retired) the Honourable Sam Lieberman on to the floor of the Chamber. This historical event along with the preceding reception in the Legislature Rotunda brought together veterans from four Alberta regiments: the Calgary Highlanders, the King's Own Calgary Regiment, the South Alberta Light Horse Regiment and the Loyal Edmonton Regiment along with veterans from the Alberta/NWT Command, the Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans Association, the Naval Officers' Association, the Aboriginal Veterans Association and the RCAF Association.

Provincial Page Speech Competition

May 18

The 11th Annual Provincial Page Speech Competition, sponsored by TransAlta, was held on May 18. Judging the competition were Richard Marz, MLA, Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills; Vincent Tong, former Page and the coordinator of the Alberta Debate and Speech Association, Willis Kachuk. An award luncheon was hosted by Deputy Speaker Richard Marz on June 7 to announce winners Chelsea Mitchell (third place), Christina Molzan (second place) and Leslie Day (first place).

Royal Visit

May 24

On May 24 the Alberta Legislature was graced with a visit from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on the occasion of Alberta's Centennial year. A series of stained glass windows above the front entrance to the Legislature were unveiled in honour of Her visit. Her Majesty addressed the Members and quests in the Legislature Chamber for a special session and proceeded on a walkabout through the south Legislature Grounds.

Constituency Employee Outreach Administrative Information Session

May 24–25

The Spring 2005 Constituency Employee Outreach Administrative Information Session held on May 24 and 25, 2005, in Edmonton provided an opportunity for 73 constituency staff to participate in sessions from the Information and Privacy Commissioner, the Alberta Council on Aging and LAO staff that included how to access Library materials, search *Hansard* and manage budgets. An evening session featured a presentation by constituency office staff entitled "A Centennial Celebration Tour of Alberta" that highlighted the history and diversity of Alberta.

Canada Day

July 1

On July 1 the Legislature was open to visitors for the eighth annual Canada Day at the Legislature. Guests enjoyed an afternoon full of outdoor entertainment and were invited to walk the Chamber floor, where Table Officers, the Sergeant-at-Arms, Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms and guides were waiting in costume to answer questions. As well, Library Services staff were on-site to provide tours of the Legislature Library. The 2005

Continued next page

Canada Day festivities boasted an Alberta flare with Alberta Centennial Ambassadors on-site to promote the upcoming Centennial of the province and a 1905 period fashion show on the front Legislature steps.

Korean Veterans Parade and Memorial Service

July 24

Richard Marz attended the Korean Veterans Parade and Memorial Service on the Alberta Legislature Grounds and brought greetings on behalf of all Members of the Legislative Assembly on July 24.

Matinee Performance of the Alberta Centennial Tattoo

July 24

Speaker Kowalski along with other Members of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta sponsored Alberta veterans to attend a Matinee performance of the Alberta Centennial Tattoo, held at Rexall Place, Sunday, July 24. The undertaking was well received by the veterans, and several thousand from all parts of Alberta attended.

Speaker's Cup

August 25

The 18th Annual Speaker's Cup was held at the Westlock Golf Club on Thursday, August 25. The event was hosted by Speaker Kowalski and brought out 133 golfers and another 42 guests and volunteers who participated in the evening dinner.

Alberta's 100th Centennial "Alberta Spirit"

September 1

The official Centennial celebration event took place on September 1 on the front steps of the Legislature with dignitaries and entertainers performing all day and evening with a fireworks display rounding out the day's activities.

Sixth Provincial Police and Peace Officers' Memorial Day

September 25

This event was held on September 25 to recognize fallen service officers from Alberta. Hon. Ken Kowalski brought comments during the service held on the South Grounds of the Alberta Legislature.

Association canadienne-française de l'Alberta Model Statue Unveiling

October 25

On October 25 the Speaker addressed the Francophone community at their unveiling of a model statue which will be located on the northeast Legislature Grounds commemorating the Francophone Alberta heritage. The statue, to be completed in 2006, was the work of artist Herman Poulin from St. Paul.

Poppy Presentation

October 27

The Royal Canadian Legion launched its national poppy campaign at the Alberta Legislature on October 27, hosted by Hon. Ken Kowalski, Speaker. The Alberta-Northwest Territories Command presented the first poppy to His Honour the Lieutenant Governor, Norman Kwong. Poppies were then presented to Speaker Kowalski; Deputy Premier Shirley McClellan; Weslyn Mather, MLA, representing the Official Opposition; Brian Mason, Leader of the Third Party Opposition; and other attending MLAs.

Remembrance Service

November 7

On November 7, Speaker Kowalski, along with Premier Ralph Klein, Opposition Leader Dr. Kevin Taft, Leader of the Third Party Opposition Brian Mason participated in a remembrance service held in the Legislature Rotunda. Deputy Premier Shirley McClellan laid a wreath on behalf of the Legislative Assembly. Also laying wreaths were representatives of the Royal Canadian Legion, the Canadian Corps of Commissionaires, the Alberta Union of Provincial Employees and Alberta youth. This ceremony was in memory of Albertans who gave their lives in the First and Second World Wars, the Korean War and United Nations and NATO operations.

Farewell Ceremony for Chief Electoral Officer Brian Fjeldheim

November 29

On November 29, Speaker Kowalski hosted a farewell reception for Mr. Brian Fjeldheim, Chief Electoral Officer, at the Committee Room

Lounge in the Legislature Annex. Janis Tarchuk brought greetings and made a presentation on behalf of the Legislative Offices Committee.

Constituency Outreach Seminar

December 1

On Thursday, December 1, 2005, 55 constituency staff attended the Winter Constituency Outreach seminar in Edmonton. Sessions offered a glimpse into the upcoming "100 Years of Democracy" celebrations for the Legislative Assembly, a procedural primer on the operations of parliament, and tips on accessing in-house and online services in *Hansard* and the Library. Staff also tested their knowledge of parliament in a demonstration of one of the Visitor Services Outreach programs, as well as taking some hands-on training from ITS on database management and participating in a workshop on De-escalating Angry Clients.

Employee Recognition Dinner

December 1

Speaker Kowalski hosted the annual Legislative Assembly Office and constituency office staff recognition dinner on December 1 to mark the past year's accomplishments. Awards were presented by Speaker Kowalski to staff with five, 10, 15, 20 and 25 years of service.

Christmas Light-up

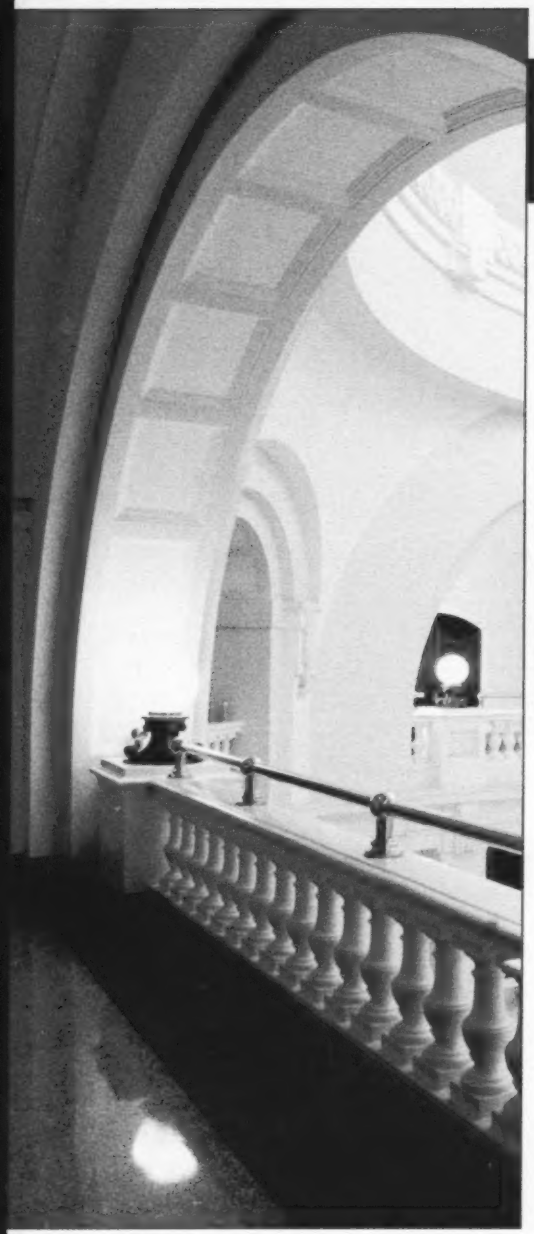
December 1

On December 1, Premier Ralph Klein and Speaker Ken Kowalski launched the festive season at the Legislature by turning on the Christmas lights. That evening through to the 23rd of December, visitors sipped hot chocolate and were entertained by choirs in the Rotunda. The holiday season saw more than 23,000 people visit the Legislature Building and the Legislature pedway, which featured Christmas trees decorated with handmade ornaments and gingerbread houses built by Edmonton and area students.

Parliamentary Events

A number of youth parliament organizations visit the Legislature, and some used the Chamber for mock parliaments. The Alberta Girls Parliament (March 31); the Forum for Young Albertans (April 24-30 and May 2-8); University of Alberta Model Parliament (January 28-30); the Parlement jeunesse de l'Alberta (November 11-13); Alberta Debate and Speech Association (November 18-19); and the TUXIS Parliamentary Alumni Society of Alberta (December 26-31).

Photo above: Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II signs the Distinguished Visitors Books of the Lieutenant Governor and the Speaker in front of the Grand Staircase in the Legislature Rotunda.



INTERPARLIAMENTARY RELATIONS

The Speaker, the Deputy Speaker and Chair of Committees, the Deputy Chair of Committees and staff of the Legislative Assembly Office are involved in ongoing liaison with members and staff of other parliaments and with other representatives of foreign countries. In 2005 they hosted and/or met with the following visitors and events.

JANUARY 31

His Excellency Dr. Pavel Vosalik
Ambassador of the Czech Republic

FEBRUARY 28

Mr. Choong-joo Choi
Consul General of the Republic of Korea

MARCH 7

His Excellency Daniel Jouanneau
Ambassador of the French Republic

MARCH 9

His Excellency Sadaaki Numata
Ambassador of Japan

MARCH 15

Ontario Legislature Internship Program participants

MARCH 23

His Excellency Aly Diane
Ambassador of the Republic of Guinea

APRIL 6

His Excellency Snanchart Devahastin
Ambassador of Thailand

APRIL 14

YB Tan Sri Dató Seri Dr. Abdul Hamid Pawanteh
President of the Senate of Malaysia and Delegation

APRIL 20

His Excellency Ernesto A. Sení Darias
Ambassador of the Republic of Cuba

APRIL 25

Mr. Bunyan Saptomo
Consul General of Indonesia

APRIL 27

His Excellency Poul Erik Dam Kristensen
Ambassador of the Kingdom of Denmark

JUNE 15

The 22nd Regional Meeting of the America Region of the Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie (APF) was held in Alberta from September 14 to 18, 2005. Pictured above is the awards ceremony where medals of the Ordre de la Pléiade were given to individuals who contributed to the promotion of French in their respective jurisdictions.

Five Members of the Legislative Assembly were among those awarded this distinctive medal. They include Premier Klein, Speaker Kowalski, Minister Hancock, Minister Zwozdesky and MLA Denis Ducharme. Former MLA Paul Langevin also received a medal that evening.

Mr. John Hurson
President

Ms Susan Clarke Schaar
Secretary of the Senate, State of Virginia

Mr. William Pound
Executive Director, National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL)

JULY 25

Honourable Sergey Kharyuchi
Chairman of Yamal-Nenets State Duma

OCTOBER 5

His Excellency Peter Ogego
High Commissioner for the Republic of Kenya

OCTOBER 17

Honourable Yoshinobu Yoshizawa
Vice-Governor of Hokkaido

Honourable Fumiaki Takahashi
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Hokkaido

NOVEMBER 2

Mr. Yoshikazu Takeuchi
Consul General of Japan

NOVEMBER 8

Mr. Martin Cronin
British Consul General

NOVEMBER 24

His Excellency Alan Baker
Ambassador of Israel

"... on January 6, 2005, the late the Hon. Dr. Lois E. Hole, CM, AOE, the 15th Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, passed away following a courageous battle with cancer. Her Honour served with grace and dignity as Alberta's Lieutenant Governor from 2000 to 2005. Her Honour was well known in various local, provincial, and national organizations and was recognized for her contribution to libraries, education, and the arts."

Hon Ken Kowalski, Speaker of the Assembly
Alberta Hansard, March 2, 2005